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Spy's Plan for Prison Escape In Oslo Is Thwarted by Friend

OSLO, June 23 (Reuters) — A plan to whisk a convicted spy out of an Oslo jail to West Africa has led to three arrests, the police said today.

The police said a Gambian imprisoned with the spy, Arne Treholt, on drug smuggling charges and a 17-year-old woman Mr. Treholt met at another prison during his trial were being held by police on suspicion of helping to plan the escape. A year ago, Mr. Treholt began serving a 20-year sentence for spying for the Soviet Union.

The third person arrested was Mr. Treholt's brother, Einar Treholt, who was later released pending further investigation.

The police acted after a tip from Egil Ulateig, a journalist and long-time friend of Mr. Treholt.

Mr. Ulateig said Mr. Treholt was set to attempt his escape on Saturday evening during a World Cup soccer broadcast, when he expected security to be at a minimum. He said Mr. Treholt was going to climb over a wall and be taken away by a waiting car. He has since been transferred to a maximum-security prison outside of Oslo.